

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Figure 8 is amended to indicate that “Conventional Art” is being depicted.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 remain pending after amendment.

**Abstract Amendment**

A new Abstract is submitted.

**Specification Amendments**

Editorial amendments are made to pages 1-4 of the specification.

**Claim Amendments**

By this amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5 are amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. Support for the amendment of claim 1 resides at page 4, lines 2-16 and page 6, lines 13-24 of the specification. Support for the amendment of claim 3 resides at page 4, lines 16-20 and page 6, lines 5-7 of the specification. Support for the amendment of claim 5 resides at page 4, lines 16-20 and page 6, lines 5-7 of the specification.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 2-8. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the proposed amendments to claims 1, 3 and 5. The Examiner's proposed amendments are adopted by applicant with the exception of the proposed amendments of claim 1. However, claim 1 is amended in a

manner which is believed to be consistent with the view of the Examiner and which places the claim in allowable form.

In view of the above amendments, it is now believed that all pending claims are now directed to allowable subject matter.

### **Objection to Drawings**

In response to the objection to Figure 8, the Figure is amended to indicate that “Conventional Art” is depicted.

The objection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

### **Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)**

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) as not distinctly claiming the invention.

In response, claims 1, 3 and 5 are amended in an attempt to more clearly define the claimed invention. These amendments are believed consistent with those proposed by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action, for which applicant is appreciative.

The rejection is thus believed to be without basis and should be withdrawn.

### **Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Erickson, Quimby or Waber. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, claim 1 is amended in a manner which is believed to be consistent with the suggestions of the Examiner in the prior Action. As a result, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) is believed moot and should be withdrawn.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.


In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Andrew D. Meikle at (703) 205-8000 to discuss such matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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
  
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pneumatic tire comprises a pair of bead portions each having a bottom face and an axially outer side face which contact with a bead seat and a flange of a wheel rim, respectively, wherein the axially outer side face comprises a radially outer part for contacting with a radially outermost curved portion of the rim flange; and a radially inner part for contacting with a radially inner flat portion of the rim flange. In a meridian section of the tire, that the radially inner part is a substantially straight line, and the radially outer part is (A) a substantially straight line or (B) convex line or (C) a curved concave line having a radius of curvature of not less than 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the radially outer part extends radially outwards from the radially outer end of the radially inner part while inclining axially outwards.